

2.2 Manchu Lake Fuel Break, YTA

USAG-AK has proposed to rehabilitate an existing fuel break in the Manchu Lake area of the Yukon Training Area (YTA), Fort Wainwright (Figure 3). The existing fuel break was created in the early 1980s and was re-cleared in the 1990s. Improvements are necessary because the break has re-vegetated and is therefore not as effective in preventing the spread of fires. The existing fuel break is approximately 3330 meters long and approximately 30 feet wide, with a short 200 meter long spur to the north that intersects with Moose Creek. The proposed work will involve using a straight blade on a bulldozer to "roll" off the top layer of vegetation (2-3 inches deep). This work will be done while the ground is still frozen and will be limited to the footprint of the existing fuel break. The purpose of this particular fuel break is to contain wildfires within the Manchu Range. This project is located on map quadrangle FAI C1, T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Sections 30 and 31.

Survey and Field Methods

In the summer of 2002 the project area for the fuel break improvement project was investigated by an archaeological survey crew, employed by the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML, Colorado State University). This crew was supervised by William Hedman. This cultural resources survey was part of a survey for a larger range development project. All of the area shown in Figure 3 was archaeologically surveyed in the summer of 2002 (Hedman et al. 2003).

Parallel pedestrian transects spaced at 10-20 meters were walked in all areas that were not deemed too wet or too steep ($>40^\circ$) to contain cultural material. Systematic sub-surface testing was undertaken in areas determined to be high probability (e.g., lake margins, ridges, benches adjacent to steeper slopes) during initial review of the proposed project area, and as determined by the supervising archaeologist and field crew leader based on survey findings. Shovel tests were approximately 40cm x 40cm, and were screened through $\frac{1}{4}$ " hardware cloth.

Cultural Resources

There is one known site in the vicinity of the proposed project. This site has been determined to be outside of the project area.

FAI-00157

Latitude:

Longitude: (NAD 27)

Determination: Not evaluated

This site consists of one chert flake and a segment of an obsidian microblade. The artifacts were found on the surface of a clearing in 1978 (Holmes 1979:23). During survey activities in 2002, this site was re-located based on map coordinates and the presence of previously excavated test units. UTM coordinates for the site are Zone 6, (WGS84). The site area was shovel tested extensively in 2002, however no additional cultural material was located. This site was likely disturbed by previous clearing activities and all remaining cultural material collected in 1978. This site is located outside of the project area and no additional work is recommended at this time.



Figure 3. Manchu Fuel Break Project Area

Results

Pedestrian survey and sub-surface testing of the proposed project area did not identify any cultural resources. All other previously recorded archaeological sites or historic properties in the Yukon Training Area fall outside of the proposed project area. USAG-AK determined that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project.